

## Tips for Writing Behavioral Objectives

Behavioral objectives state what the learner will be able to do at the completion of the learning activity. Objectives guide us in the selection of teaching content and methods and provide a framework for evaluation. Evaluation of a continuing education program is possible only if, at the end of the event, the achievements can be measured against what was identified in the objectives.

Key points when writing behavioral objectives:

- Use verbs that are action oriented and can be observed
- Use only one action verb per objective
- Focus on the learner outcome, not the instructor approach
- Be sure the objective can be measured within the time frame of the continuing education activity
- Use objectives that relate to the content and the teaching method.

### Examples of Behavioral Terms to Use

To measure knowledge	To measure understanding	To measure application	To measure analysis	To measure synthesis	To measure evaluation	To measure attitude
Define	Identify	List	Analyze	Combine	Evaluate	State
State	Select	Show	Identify	Restate	Validate	
Write	Indicate	Demonstrate	Differentiate	Summarize	Determine	
Select	Illustrate	Choose	Select	Discuss	Identify	
Describe	Explain	Perform	Compare	Organize	Choose	
	Classify	Construct	Contrast	Select		
	Name	Select				
		Assess				
		Explain				
		Reproduce				

Example: Describe the ECG changes suggestive of anterior wall myocardial infarction.

Avoid Brand names, acronyms and abbreviations should not be used in the CEU packet application.

Avoid using terms that are vague or cannot be measured.

Examples of terms to avoid:

- Enjoy
  - Know
  - Remember
  - Think
  - Understand
- Be familiar with      Be interested in
- Comprehend
- Appreciate